484 night. If they build a pirogue or a house it takes them an entire year to do the work. When they stay in their houses, some make baskets and others make oars which they smooth with glass or with pumice stone; and others rock themselves in their hammocks, talk, or play the flute. These occupations do not break their arms. They [142] all are of good size, muscular, thick-set and well-proportioned, although their food is poor and meager. As a consequence they are not energetic. The women are scarcely more diligent for they need six months or even years to make one cotton hammock. They work 58 in the morning making cassava, cooking, and watching their children. After eating they go to their garden, harvest manioc, clear the spot, dig the ditches, and replant it. Then they come back with their burdens and give their husbands dinner and then they themselves eat. They peel and grate the manioc and squeeze it. These are the ordinary occupations of the women and of the wives of captains as well. [200]

The Carib women go to their gardens every day to dig sweet potatoes or manioc, and the wives of the captains go just as the others do. After they have uprooted the crop they clean the soil and replant the manioc or potatoes. They do not use spades, nor hoes, because they are not accustomed to them, but use a sharp stick. They dig the soil with it and make a ditch for manioc, then go back loaded with their full carrying basket. [149]

241 The Caribs don't use our vegetables. They have gardens instead of fields and vineyards. They obtain from them bread and ouicou, that is to say they grow manioc and sweet potatoes. This is what we call our plantations. This is different from the Caribs for whom houses and carbet are separated from gardens. They dig one hole here and there, different from the French whose gardens and houses are not scattered. [281]

"I have planted manioc wood" is the expression for saying "I sowed or planted." The main cultivation of the country are roots produced by a small tree. When it is uprooted and the root is taken, one cuts the wood into pieces as long as fingers which are placed into the cultivated ground with a digging stick. These produce other small manioc trees with roots. [96]

● 313 Every evening groups of women go to the woods carrying axes to split sandlewood which they cut into little splinters. They put

! [i.e., the Caribs.—Analyst]

213 these into their carrying baskets. They come home loaded and give enough to each one to make a fire under his hammock during the night. [232]

248 Cotton is indispensable to the Caribs for hammocks, for stringing ornaments, and for tying the feathers on their arrows. They also use it to fasten their arrowheads made either of green wood or of the tail of the sting ray, in place of iron. It is to obtain cotton that leads them to fish at the Saints or to catch crabs at Marie-Galante, for they make clearings in those places to grow cotton. You see very few Caribs who do not always carry a small roll of cotton in their baskets. The French ships do not willingly encumber themselves with cotton because of the fear of fire and because it does not load ship well. [280]

283 The women having taken the cotton from its pod and picked out the seeds then put a headless arrowshaft into it. Then they turn the cotton, which thins like carded wool. When it breaks off they attach an end to the arrow. A woman holds the arrow in one hand and in the other holds a spindle which is as long as an arm's length or more. The thread stop is a round object made of tortoise shell and is as wide as the hand with a length of about half a foot measured from the end of the shaft. This end is placed on the ground. The spindle shaft point is pressed against the women's thigh, and she rolls it back and forth with her extended hand up and down the length of her thigh. This is how the Carib women spin thread. [114]

485 A small calabash is cut into two parts and is painted by the women. It is used as a glass or a cup. [439] They cut halves from two calabashes in such a way that one half fits inside the other and forms a box. They pass cords through it and they use them as little chests, as bags, and as knapsacks. [128] They use a big and long calabash as a pot for a drink offered to some visitor, or when a sacrifice is offered. It rests on the longest part and is open on the other side. They draw off water from the opening in this calabash using a smaller one. [198]

231 The Caribs never feed any animals except by necessity or entertainment. If they have roosters it is to wake them up in the morning. If they keep birds it is to draw out their plumes in order to adorn themselves, and they use the other kind to teach their children to fish and hunt. If they keep dogs it is to hunt pigs and agoutis. If they have chickens they would prefer to die rather than to eat them, and

6: Taylor E-S (1930-1937) 1938
ST13 Callinago ST13

The High Woods

The Caribs' intelligence is in their hands and feet. I suspect their 314
own word for incompetent, mabuku, to mean "without feet"; and, just as the typical Frenchman's ability is best described by that untranslatable word, "débrouillard," so the characteristic virtue of the Carib may be summed up in the word "manoeuvre." The true Carib is neither a hard nor a quick worker, but he is always able to manoeuver his way out of a difficult situation in order to accomplish what he is after. "Where there's a will, there's a way" is a motto which suits him well, and nowhere does he show this better than on the high sea and in the high woods.

The high woods (in patois: les grands bois) are those tracts of virgin forest that still cover much of the island's mountainous interior. They lie, as a rule, well over 500 feet above sea level, and it is in them that the gigantic gommiers, chataigniers (*Sloanea*), cedars, rosewood, and other forest kings reach their full majesty. Here the Caribs come [313] •
to saw wood for posts, boards, and shingles; to fell and hew the gommier for their canoes; to cut larouman for their basketry; to hunt the [274]
agouti, the wild pig, the wood pigeon, and the parrot; to search for wawa (*Rajania cordata* L.), berries, and wild honey; to fish the streams with bait, trap, and poison for mullet, crayfish, and other varieties.

The young shoot or cabbage of the mountain palmiste (*Euterpe montana*) provides a pleasant and wholesome salad. It is true the [242]
tree must be felled in order to obtain this, but, when this is done at full moon, the bole becomes the refuge of a species of beetle, the *Calandra palmarum*, whose fat white grub constitutes a culinary delicacy much appreciated locally under the name of ver palmiste. This is the reverse of the process employed in cutting trees for dugouts. These are felled at the new moon in order to prevent the incursion of borer worms and grubs. Certain plants and trees, such as the male papaya, are cut down at certain phases of the moon in order to make them spring up again as female, that is, as fruit-bearing trees. Wild pineapples, sapodillas (*Anacardium occidentale*) are to be found in the woods, as also the fruits of the balata and balata trees (*Orythes balaisaeum* and *Mimusops riedleana*), of the bois cote (*Tapura guianensis*), courbaril (*Hymenaea courbaril*), and icacque (*Hirtella* sp.).

Wild honey of two sorts is to be found: that known as "sûr" (sour) from the small native stingless bee, or "pou lélé," which produces the black wax already mentioned, and the "gros miel" from the (probably imported) ordinary bee in a wild state. The Caribs are fond of eating the white grub or larvae (in patois: cousins) of both varieties—usually together with the honey, raw.

Water may be obtained on the heights from the corde de l'eau (*Pia-* 271
zona), a species of stout liana which releases, when cut, a pint or so of cool, refreshing sap.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

fish from biting by causing their mouths to become soft. Coconut leaves are also boiled alone to produce a tea drunk by those with colds and fever, or by women in labour (parturition); the leaves are also used for bathing (adults or children).

Specimen citation: 398.

Annona reticulata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Custard Apple, Bullock's Heart. — Cachima, Cachima Coeur de Boeuf. — alabálisa (m), karima.

This is another common West Indian species, varieties of which produce edible fruits.

The bark is employed by the Caribs to bandage sprains and dislocations; when so used it is kept moist with salt water. A tea is brewed from cachima leaves, together with the leaves of the pigeon pea 'Cajanus cajan (L.) Millsp.], and this is drunk by individuals suffering from fever.

Specimen citation: 3358.

Annona squamosa Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Sweetsop, Sugar Apple. — Pomme Canelle. — kalfúri.

Like the preceding species this small West Indian tree is widely cultivated for its edible fruit.

The leaves are made into a "tea", drunk as a supposed cure for a painful spleen (a common complaint among Caribs).

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Guatteria caribaea Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 240. 1905.

Guatteria cowpoa Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 7, 1859, non Dunal.

Cananga caribaea Britton in Br. & Wils. Bot. P. R. (Sci. Surv. Puerto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 311. 1924.

Mahó (often spelled mahot, mahoe, or mahaut) Noir, Bois Violon.

A medium-sized forest tree found in Puerto Rico and recorded in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Grenada.

Bois violon possesses a good wood often made by the Caribs into boards. Young specimens of this species are also fashioned into masts for dugouts. The strong bark furnishes a rope fiber from which are constructed the halyards, etc., for sails. Such

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Timbra of bois diable is used by the Indians for pestle, pole-
plates, etc., while the wood is considered to be the best in Domi- 824*
nica for the manufacture of charcoal, the principal kitchen fuel [342
of the island. The pounded wood is also employed by the Carib [342]
as a wick in torches made of the gum from the gommier (*Dacryodes* 373
excelsa).

Specimen citation: 378, 1237, 2967, 2972.

LEGUMINOSAE. Pulse Family.

Andira inermis (Wright) Humboldt, Bonpland, and Kunth, Nov. Gen. 6: 385. 1823.

Andira jamaicensis Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 298. (1905).

Bastard Mahogany. — Angelin, L'Angelin. — **sabdlw** (= house-post).

This species of tree is found throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America, and in Dominica occurs at lower to middle elevations.

The hard, red-brown wood of angelin is very durable and is [343]
used by the inhabitants of Dominica, Caribs included, for posts, boards and all types of heavy constructional work.

Specimen citation: 3332.

Arachis hypogaea Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 741. 1753.

Peanut. — Pistache. — **mdli** (cf. Tupi *mandubi*).

The peanut is widely cultivated in the warm temperate and tropical regions of the earth. Although earlier writers believed in an Old World origin this American species is probably indigenous to Brazil, but was also known in pre-Columbian times by the ancient Peruvians (1) (11).

Caribs eat the seeds either raw or roasted, and an oil is also [260]
prepared by grinding. Raw seeds are considered to possess aphro- [832]
disiacal properties. The pistache is also an ingredient in a ritual [755]
bath described under *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 3328.

Cassia alata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 378. 1753.

Herpetica alata Rafinesque, Sylva Tell. 123. 1838.

Ringworm Shrub (18). — Dessy.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

A 824 [272] A tea is made from the leaves[26] by the Island Caribs.
Specimen citation: 2654.

Hymenaea courbaril Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1192. 1753.
Courbaril, West Indian Locust. — Coubari. — *kairubali*.

A tree known throughout the West Indies as well as in continental tropical America. The species occurs in Dominica at lower and middle elevations.

Courbaril possesses a tough heavy timber much utilized for carpentry work and furniture (8), while from the stems and twigs exudes a hard resin collected in Brazil and marketed under the name of Demerara, or Para copal (22).

[263] [278] The coarse pods of coubaril contains an edible pulp which is much eaten by Carib children. Formerly it was stirred up in water to make a refreshing and, some say, nutritive beverage.

[318] The heavy timber is difficult to work, and because it does not resist exposure to weather, it is not employed by the Carib.
Specimen citation: 3222.

Inga laurina (Swartz) Willdenow, Sp. Pl. 4: 1018. 1806.
Pois Doux.

A medium-sized tree common on moist sites from Puerto Rico to Grenada at lower to middle elevations.

[351] Within its range the pois doux is a favorite shade tree for coffee and in Dominica it is much used for this purpose as well as to shade cacao.

[275] A medicinal tea is prepared by the Caribs from a mixture of the bark of the pois doux and mako piment (*Daphnopsis caribaea*). Water taken from a hole (presumably a hole caused by trunk decay) in a pois doux tree, when mixed with leaf heart of balisier (*Heliconia*), is utilized as a local treatment of erysipelas.
Specimen citation: 611, 612.

Lonchocarpus spp.
Savonette[27]. — *iodlu* (see also *Hibiscus cerulentus*).

---

[26] For a further use see quina (*Exostemma caribaeum-laurina*).
[27] Species of *Pithecellobium* and *Sapindus* also are known by this patois name.

A [i.e., the coral tree. -Ed.]

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

The kidney bean was known and grown by the Island Caribs under its aboriginal name. Although still grown today Caribs believe that the species must not be handled by hunter or fisherman (as this would spoil his catch), nor can plants be given to domestic animals (e. g. pigs) as this would cause them to become vicious.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Pithecellobium jupunba (Willdenow) Urban, Symb. Ant. 2: 257. 1900.

Pithecellobium unguis-felinum Bentham, Hook. Journ. Bot. 2: 142. 1840.

Pithecellobium microdentum Bentham, Hook. Lond. Journ. 3: 217. 1844.

Bois Cloveau, (Bois) Pigéri, Bois Savonette[34]. — *akalalua, narvalilua* (« white-flecked »?).

A common tree of moist forests at middle elevations in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad, and in northern South America from Colombia to Brazil.

Caribs utilize the wood of bois cloveau for boards. A decoction of the bark is drunk for dysentery while pounded bits of bark are sometimes employed as a substitute fish poison. When rubbed in water the leaflets emit a lather which is used as a soap.

Specimen citation: 3137, 3412.

SIMAROUBACEAE. QUASSIA FAMILY.

Picramnia pentandra Swartz, Fl. Ind. Occ. 220. 1797.

Picramnia antidesmoides Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 141. 1859. Bitter-Bush (8). — Tan, Bois Tan[35].

---

[34] The name bois savonette is seldom used on the island for *Pithecellobium*, and in the Carib Reserve by only a few of the Indians. Species of *Lonchocarpus* or *Tephrosia* more frequently go under this appelation. *Pithecellobium* has probably received this name through transfer since the genus is the source of a fish poison, used as a substitute for that obtained from species of *Lonchocarpus*.

[35] Not to be confused with another tree also called bois tan (*Byrsonima spicata*).

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-S (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callimago ST13

Timber from young specimens is used by the Caribs for making masts for dugout canoes, while the buttresses (« wings ») of old trunks are employed for fashioning paddles. The fruit is edible and is frequently used by Indian hunters.

Specimen citation: 25 (T), 1322.

EUPHORBIACEAE, Spurge Family.

Amanoa caribaea Krug & Urban, Notizbl. Berl. Bot. Gard. 1 (10): 226. 1897.

Carapite [23].

This large tree is apparently limited to the mountain rain-forests of Guadeloupe and Dominica.

The purplish black wood of carapite is filled with white flecks or deposits, and is so exceedingly hard and heavy that it lasts well in the ground or when exposed to moisture. The Caribs appreciate its durability, and consequently often utilize it for [illegible], etc.

Specimen citation: 1226, 1889.

Euphorbia hypericifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 454. 1753.

Chamaesyce hypericifolia Millspaugh, Field Mus. Bot. 2: 302. 1909.

Mal Nommé, Mal Dormi. — *dkulidrani* (« eye medicine »), *oldouali dkw lii*.

A common annual weed found throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America.

An infusion made by the Caribs from this plant is taken to lessen uterine pains; the same type of infusion or the expressed juice is used in sore eyes or to cure a sty in the eye, etc.

Specimen citation: 565, 564, 3039.

Hippomane mancinella Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1191. 1753.

Manchineel, Majini (from the Spanish: *manzanilla*, « little apple »). — *boloubukuru* (« sea-venom »).

---

[23] Not to be confused with (bois) carapate (*Cavapa guianensis*) or carapate (*Bixinia orellana*).

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X624

SABIACEAE. Sabia Family.

Meliosma herbertii Rolfe, Kew Bull. 244. 1883.

Sept ans.

Sept ans is a tree of the mountain forests of Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles.

[343] The wood of this species is said to be suitable for cabinet work, but the Carib of Dominica employs the timber chiefly for posts.

Specimen citation: 139 (T).

MALVACEAE. Mallow Family.

Gossypium spp.

Cotton. — Coton. — *Ghilétopue, mâale* (m) (*cf. Tupi amandiyo-ỹ*).

Several species of cotton are grown throughout the West Indies. At least one of these is native to the Americas for Columbus found the Tainos and Caribs growing cotton on many of the West India islands: «... cotton plants as large as peach trees...» (69).

[248] The Caribs of Dominica cultivate two kinds of cotton which are to be found growing as arborescent shrubs near their dwellings. In some places the plants appear naturalized. The two types are known as coton noir (*G. vitifolium* Lam.) and coton blanc (*G. barbadense* L.).

283 X824 Most present day Caribs state that they can remember their grandmothers spinning cotton fiber. It was formerly spun by the following process. The cotton was picked and sun-dried for a day or so. Then it was gone over carefully and teased bit by bit into circular pads of about the same size which were then flattened between the palms of the hands. The pads were then piled one on top of the other thus forming a cylinder which was squeezed, folded, and stretched until it attained the required consistency. This cylinder was then twisted into a spiral and stretched carefully to the desired thickness. One end of the spiral was then attached to the hook at the end of a spindle[88], and the other end was

[88] This had a wooden shank about two and a half feet long, and a guard formed from a calabash or turtle shell.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Formerly pinnat

[834] was added instead of sugar. Small abortive pods (i. e. those which
[265] turn yellow instead of maturing) are used as a constituent of a
[302] shampoo which supposedly promotes growth of the hair. The
[534] wood is utilized in the construction of frames for drums (tambour
372 basque), and was formerly used for fire drills.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

DILLENIACEAE. Dillenia Family.

Dolicarpus calinoides (Eichler) Gilg in Engl. & Prantl, Nat. Pfl. 3: 114. 1893.

Corde d'Eau.

A stout liana inhabiting the mountain forests of Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, Dominica, and Trinidad.

[272] This vine contains a pint or more of refreshing water which, on cutting the stem, is released and drunk by the Caribs. The species is rather rare and is known chiefly to hunters who say that one must sever the liana with one stroke else the water will mount up the cord.

Specimen citation: 37 (T).

GUTTIFERAE. Clusia Family.

Calophyllum brasiliense Camb. var. **antillanum** (Britt.) Standley, Tropical Woods 30: 7. 1932.

Calophyllum antillanum Britton in Britton & Wilson, Bot. Porto Rico (Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 384. 1924.

Calophyllum calaba sensu Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 108. 1859, as to Dominica citation.

Calaba, Galba, Maria, Santa Maria.

A West Indian tree found in Dominica at lower elevations.

This species is valued throughout the Antilles as a source of timber. Some of the big canoes of the Tainos of Cuba and Hispaniola were constructed from the wood of this tree.

[313] The hard, durable, reddish brown wood of galba is used by Carib (and Creole) for posts, furniture, and general construction purposes.

Specimen citation: 3199.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Clusia pluketii Urban, Symb. Ant. 5 : 432. 1908. 824*
Caquelin, Lagali, Larali, Mang Rouge [43] (cf. French : mangler, mangle). — Pomme Chique.

An epiphytic strangler tree of mountain rain-forests ; ranging in the Lesser Antilles from Dominica to Barbados.

Considerable confusion exists among the local names applied by the Creoles to this species of *Clusia*. Kakle or caquelin is the most frequent appellation but the name mang rouge is used at Bellevue, and larali (or lagali) [44] in the Carib Reserve.

The white sticky sap of *Clusia pluketii* is infrequently used as an inferior bird-lime by Carib hunters. The aerial roots are sometimes employed in basketry and the wood makes an excellent fuel for a local type of improvised lime kiln used by both Carib and Creole. For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*. [223 285 372]

Specimen citation : 3206, 3251.

Mammea americana Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 512. 1753.
Mamey, Mammee-Apple. — **marówi**.

A large handsome tree native to the West Indies but widely planted in the tropics for its edible fruit.

The strong durable wood of the mamey is used occasionally for posts, piling, and general construction (50) ; the fruit is eaten raw after soaking in wine and sugar (18), or is used to make an excellent marmalade. In the neighboring French Antilles the flowers, distilled in spirit, make a liqueur known as **eau créole** ; while « the gum, melted with fat, is applied to the sores made by chigoes » (18). [303] [252 262]

Like species of *Ficus* and *Ceiba pentandra*, this species is considered by the Dominica Caribs to be the home of the « tree-spirit » (see discussion under *Ceiba*). [174]

Specimen citation : no collection made.

Rheedia laterifiora Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1193. 1753.
Hat Stand Tree (67). — Bois Chico.

---

[43] Not to be confused with another non epiphytic tree, *Tovomita plumieri* more generally known by this name.

[44] A tree called lagli or la gli, *Sapium caribaeum*, should not be confused with this species of *Clusia*.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-S (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

[221] This tree is recorded in the West Indies from Jamaica and Hispaniola through the Lesser Antilles to Trinidad. In Dominica the species is most frequent on lower slopes along the windward coast.

[224 752 343] A yellow milky sap is found in the wood of bois chire, and is employed by the Caribs to heal cracked or fissured feet. The ellipsoidal fruits are edible and are sought out particularly by the Indian children.

Specimen citation: 3178, 3380.

Symphonia globulifera Linnaeus filius, Suppl. 302. 1781.
Yellow Mang. — Mang (sometimes spelled Mangle) Blanc, Mang Jaune. — *bois chire*.

This still-coated tree of the wet mountain forests of Dominica is known from tropical continental America as well as from Jamaica, Hispaniola, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad.

[313] The Caribs use the timber of mang blanc as a source of shingles, boards, and the like. A yellowish gummy resin is also found in the wood of this species. The gum is hard and friable after contact with the air and has been used by Indian tribes of continental South America for torches, as a caulking material, and as a cement to fix fishbone points to the shafts of their arrows (18).

A pitch-like resin, called *mani*, obtained from the wood of the closely related *Moronobea coccinea* Aublet of the continental tropics of America, is similarly used by aborigines of the basins of the Orinoco and Amazon rivers. For example, Roth (43) refers to *mani* and its use in his discussion of the Indians of Guiana. Curiously, a blackish resin, also called *mani*, is employed by the Caribs of Dominica for strengthening home-made ia pite (*Ananas*) twine[*]. It was first thought, since *Moronobea coccinea* does not occur in Dominica, that the local *mani* was derived from the yellow resin of mang blanc (*Symphonia*) but this is apparently not the case. Lumps of *mani* are always collected along the windward beaches where they are apparently tossed by the sea at certain seasons, particularly during «Carême» (February to

[283]

[*] *Mani* is put to a use similar to that which beeswax performs in sewing.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

April). This period coincides with the annual heavy floods of the Orinoco (and Amazon). We believe, therefore, that the *mani* of the Island Caribs is of South American origin. In some parts of the Orinoco drainage, the gathering of *mani* from *Moronobea coccinea* has long been a regular Indian activity, having been described for the early 18th century by Alexander Humboldt in his classical narratives of travel. It is conceivable that *mani* so collected can occasionally be lost from the canoes of the lowland Indian rain gatherers and washed downstream to the Atlantic, where it may be carried by the North Equatorial Current onto the windward shores of the Lesser Antilles. If this postulation is true, then the Island Carib of today obtains fortuitously from the sea-beaches of Dominica a vegetable product which was originally utilized by his ancestors on the South American continent, though subsequently obtained through regular contact by sailing canoe with the Orinoco.

Specimen citation: 3247.

Tovomita plumieri Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 106. 1859.
Mang (sometimes spelled Mangle) Rouge.

A tree known only from the mountain rain forests of Dominica and Martinique.

Mang rouge takes its name from its durable red wood which is utilized in Dominica for posts, shingles, and staves.

The Island Carib employs the timber for general construction purposes.

Specimen citation: 536.

BIXACEAE. ANNATTO FAMILY.

Bixa orellana Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 512. 1753.
Annatto.[48] — Rocou, Roucou. — *kwaiwa, owaiabi* (m); *bisi* (w); *awaiabi* (“soaked”), *alaibibe* (names applied to the prepared pigment mixed with oil).

---

[48] In Middle America *achiote* or *achiotl*, Aztec derivatives, are the names most frequently encountered.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Another tea is
[824 853] brewed of a mixture of the barks of maho piment and pois doux (*Inga laurina*) and given to women to induce lactation. For further uses of this species as an ingredient in ritual baths see *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 21 (T), 466, 3274.

COMBRETACEAE. White Mangrove Family.

Terminalia catappa Linnaeus, Mant. 1: 128. 1767.

Z'Amande.

A large, spreading coastal tree, native to Malaya but now widely dispersed in the tropics of both hemispheres.

[313 262] Caribs make boards from the strong, brown timber while the ripe seeds are eaten by them like almonds.

Specimen citation: 3148, 3337.

MYRTACEAE. Myrtle Family.

Pimenta racemosa (Miller) J. W. Moore, Bernice P. Bishop Mus. Bull. 102: 33. 1933.

Pimenta acris Kosteletsky, All. Med. Pharm. Fl. 4: 1526. 1835.

Amomis caryophyllata Krug & Urban, Engler Bot. Jahrb. 19: 573. 1894.

Bay Tree, Bay Rum Tree. — Bois d'Inde, Black Cinnamon. — *asiru*, *hasuru* (« peeled »†).

A well known species native to the West Indies and northeastern South America and cultivated elsewhere in tropical regions. In Dominica the bay tree frequents hillsides generally at lower elevations. This tree is one of the first « spices » recorded from the New World. Chanca, on Columbus' second voyage, wrote of the island of Marie Galante: « We found there a tree whose leaf had the finest smell of cloves that I have ever met with; it was in shape like a laurel leaf, but not so large » (69).

[411] The heavy, incorruptible wood was used formerly by the Caribs for making war clubs (*batu*). Today it is employed in the manufacture of « boucans » (barbecues), pestles for wooden mortars,

† [i.e., of Maho. - Analyst]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

K 824
[396
262]

According to the Carib, the hard, durable, tough wood of bois calmite is one of the best for the manufacture of canoe paddles. The small fruits are edible.

Specimen citation: 3368.

Manilkara nitida (Sessé & Mociño) Dubard, Ann. Mus. Col. Marseille ser. 3. 3: 18. 1915.

Mimusops nitida Urban, Symb. Ant. 5: 167. 1904.

Bumelia retusa Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 401. 1861, as to Dominica plant, *non* Swartz.

Bullet Weed, Bully Tree. — Balata. — *bálata*.

A tall tree known from Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Tortola, St. Jan, and Dominica. On the latter island it is found at lower elevations. The hard, reddish-brown, resistent wood is valued in Dominica for construction work.

[313
262]

Caribs utilize the timber of *bálata* as well as its edible fruits.

Specimen citation: 104 (T).

Mastichodendron foetidissimum (Jacquin) Lam in Rec. Trav. Bot. Neérl. 36: 521. 1939.

Siderozylon foetidissimum Jacquin, Enum. 15. 1760.

Siderozylon mastichodendron Jacquin, Coll. 2: 253. 1788.

Acoma (or Acomat) St. Christophe. — *dukuma*.

A tree ranging throughout the West Indies from Florida to Barbados. In Dominica the species occurs at lower elevations.

[313]

Acoma St. Christophe supplies one of the most durable of native building timbers found on the island. It was formerly much sought after by the Caribs.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Oxythece fabrilis Pierre in Urban, Symb. Ant. 5. 160. 1904.

Balate.

A large tree recorded only from Guadeloupe and Dominica.

[313
262
278]

Balate possesses a hard wood (but inferior to that of *bálata*), used by the Caribs for timber. The fruits of this species are eaten by children and others, and were formerly employed to make a beverage.

Specimen citation: 105 (T).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 824 **Vitex divaricata** Swartz, Prodr. 93. 1788.
Bois Lezard. — *hulcúmele, hurcúmele* (« lizard leaf »).

A West Indian tree known from Cuba to Guiana and found in Dominica chiefly at middle elevations.

[313 278] Caribs make the timber into boards, scantlings, and shingles; and the burnt and powdered bark is applied to ulcers as a cure.

Specimen citation: 1653.

LABIATAE. MINT FAMILY.

Hyptis atrorubens Poiteau, Ann. Mus. Paris 7: 466. 1806.
Ti (Petit) Baume, La Menthe Grand Chemin.

A slender, creeping, weedy species widely distributed in continental tropical America, and widely dispersed in Dominica especially in moist cultivated land at lower and middle elevations.

[224] Caribs crush the bark of bois tan (*Byrsonima spicata*) together with leafy stems of ti baume to form a « chance », a decotion used in the preparation of a bath given to hunting dogs before the chase. Thus good hunting is believed assured. For further uses of this species in teas and ritual baths see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, *Annona muricata*, and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 13a (T), 881, 4004.

Leonotis nepetaefolia (Linnaeus) R. Brown in Ait. Hort. Kew. ed. 2, 3: 409. 1811.
Gros Tête.

A weed of fields and waste ground with a world-wide distribution in the warm temperate and tropical regions.

[279] The inflorescences of this orange-flowered herb are made into a tea used by the Caribs as a cure for fever.

Specimen citation: 3401.

Ocimum micranthum Willdenow, Enum. 630. 1908.
Wild Basil. — Fon Bazin (from the French – framboisin).

A weedy annual of tropical America.

[226] Carib fishermen are wont to place this plant in the box with their bait for they consider it a good luck charm. Fon bazin is a

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 824 A medium sized tree recorded from Jamaica and Puerto Rico, and in the Caribbees from Montserrat to St. Vincent.

[342] Acouquoi possesses a hard, dense, fine-grained, deep yellow wood which is said to be very durable and which is used by the Caribs to make forked supporting posts for the primitive dwellings [223] known as *maïna*. This species is known as a « hunter's tree », for the yellow pulp of the fruits is eaten by game birds [55].

An early use of a tree call *aokakwa* is recorded by BRETON (7) [278] who states that a decoction of the bitter bark was employed for washing and healing sores. The bark of *Antirrhoea* contains just such a bitter principle and since the present Carib name suggests Breton's *aokakwa*, the two names may well refer to this same species.

Specimen citation : 100 (T).

Borreria laevis (Lamarck) Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 349. 1861. Zeb (Herbe) Akwe.

This species is a weedy herb of tropical America and is common along roadsides and in waste places in Dominica.

[278] A tea is made from zeb akwe and this is employed by the Carib in the treatment of colds.

Specimen citation : 3372.

Chimarrhis cymosa Jacquin, Sel. Stirp. Am. Hist. 61. 1763. Bois Rivière.

A tree, recorded from Cuba, Jamaica, and certain of the Lesser Antilles. Bois Rivière is a common species in Dominica particularly at middle elevations.

● [313] The wood of this species has an unusual yellow hue. It is used for boards by the Caribs and Creoles.

Specimen citation : 695.

Chiococca alba (Linnaeus) Hitchcock, Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 4 : 94. 1893.

Chiococca racemosa Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 917. 1759.

West Indian Snowberry. — Branda.

---

[55] See footnote 54.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

A woody vine common in the American tropics and found in Dominica at lower elevations.

Flowers of branda, together with those of *Petrea kohautiana*, are brewed by the Caribs into a tea used as an abortive.

Specimen citation: 683, 692.

Erithalis fruticosa Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 930. 1759.

Black Torch. — Bois Chandelle, Bois Flambeau. — *túli* (« torch »; cf. Tupi *turi*).

This shrubby tree is widely distributed in the Caribbean region, being found in southern Florida, the West Indies, and Central America. In Dominica bois chandelle grows commonly in the low scrubby thickets of the windward coast.

The extremely hard, durable, wood is used by the Island Caribs for piles and posts and indeed wherever a timber is needed for contact with the ground. An inflammable resin is located in the wood which is split and bound into torches. These torches, about three to four feet long and three to four inches in diameter, burn rapidly and last for approximately two hours. The soot of burnt *túli* wood was formerly used by the Caribs as a substitute for burnt gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*) gum.

Specimen citation: 15 (T), 684, 3291.

Exostemma sanctae-luciae (Kentish) J. Britten, Journ. of Bot. 53: 138. 1915.

Exostemma floribundum Roemer & Schultes, Syst. 5: 19. 1819. Quina. — *utáuaho*.

This species ranges through the Lesser Antilles.

From the bark of quina Caribs make a concentrated decoction which is employed chiefly as an emetic and purgative. When combined with the pounded leaves of marigold (*Wedelia trilobata*) and immortel (*Erythrina corallodendron* var. *bicolor* Krukoff) the decoction is also given to women to induce expulsion of the placenta after childbirth. Canoe paddles are fashioned from the wood.

Specimen citation: 139 (T).

Genipa americana Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. ed. 10. 931. 1759.

Genip. — *álasibíkai* (m), *sáua* (w).